

## AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Please cancel Claim 34; and amend Claims 1, 3-5, 7, 8, 10-12, 32 and 33 as follows.

### **LISTING OF CLAIMS**

1. (currently amended) A reinforcing structure for an automotive vehicle comprising:

a plurality of cross car beams arranged on a back of an instrument panel in the vehicle ~~[[are]]~~ supported by a ~~[[brace]]~~ pair of braces erected on the vehicle floor, wherein

said plurality of cross car beams include an upper cross car beam of a hollow bar having a closed section suspended between left and right front pillars and a first lower cross car beam of a hollow bar having a closed section bent in the shape of an L,

a first part of said first lower cross car beam nearer to a driver's seat is in contact with said upper cross car beam, and a second part of said first lower cross car beam not in contact with said upper cross car beam defines ~~said brace~~ one of said braces;

a second lower cross car beam of a hollow bar having a closed section bent in the shape of an L is arranged nearer to a front passenger seat,

a first part of said second lower cross car beam is in contact with said upper cross car beam, ~~[[and]]~~

a second part of said second lower cross car beam not in contact with said upper cross car beam defines ~~said brace~~ the other of said braces; and

the upper cross car beam and the first lower cross car beam nearer to the driver's seat are arranged in superposed relation with each other on a first axis at a first predetermined angle to a steering shaft, while the upper cross car beam and the second lower cross car beam nearer to the front passenger seat are arranged in juxtaposition on a second axis at a second predetermined angle to the steering shaft, said second predetermined angle being different than said first predetermined angle.

2. (cancelled)

3. (currently amended) A reinforcing structure for an automotive vehicle according to claim 1,

wherein a part of said upper cross car beam and the first part of said first lower cross car beam in contact with each other are wholly or partly welded to each other in an axial direction on both sides along a contact line therebetween.

4. (currently amended) A reinforcing structure for an automotive vehicle according to claim 1,

wherein the ~~other~~ other of said braces for supporting said upper cross car beam is disposed on a part of the central portion of said upper cross car beam closer to the front passenger seat.

5. (currently amended) A reinforcing structure for an automotive vehicle according to claim 1,

wherein the first part of said first lower cross car beam nearer to the driver's seat and the first part of said second lower cross car beam nearer the front passenger seat are symmetric with each other.

6. (previously presented) A reinforcing structure for an automotive vehicle according to claim 1,

wherein said upper cross car beam has a plurality of curved parts.

7. (currently amended) A reinforcing structure for an automotive vehicle according to claim 1,

wherein said L-shaped first lower cross car beam is slightly curved.

8. (currently amended) A reinforcing structure for an automotive vehicle according to claim 1,

wherein the closed section of each hollow bar constituting said upper cross car beam and said first lower cross car beam is in a shape selected from one of a circle, an ellipse, a square, a rectangle or another polygon.

9. (previously presented) A reinforcing structure for an automotive vehicle according to claim 8,

wherein a reinforcing bridge is arranged in each of said hollow bars.

10. (currently amended) A reinforcing structure for an automotive vehicle according to claim 1,

wherein the closed sections of the hollow bar of said upper cross car beam and the hollow bar of said first lower cross car beam are selected from one of the same shape, different shapes, same area, different areas, same thickness and different thicknesses.

11. (currently amended) A reinforcing structure for an automotive vehicle according to claim 1,

wherein said upper cross car beam and said first lower cross car beam are arranged in arbitrary relative positions including superposition and juxtaposition.

12. (currently amended; withdrawn) A reinforcing structure for an automotive vehicle according to claim 1,

wherein a steering shaft is mounted on said cross car beams in a direction crossing said cross car beams, and

wherein said steering shaft is arranged between said upper cross car beam and said first lower cross car beam.

13.-31. (cancelled)

32. (currently amended) A reinforcing structure for an automotive vehicle according to claim 1, wherein a first single piece bracket is located on a first side of the vehicle and a second single piece bracket is located on a second side of the vehicle, and the first part of the first lower cross car beam in contact with the upper cross car beam and the upper cross car beam are attached to either the first or the second single piece bracket.

33. (currently amended) A reinforcing structure for an automotive vehicle according to claim 1, wherein an end portion of the upper cross car beam on a front pillar side is in contact with an end portion of the first lower cross car beam on the front pillar side.

34. (cancelled)